

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/019417

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 1-21 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 2-12, 14-25 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1, 13 _____ received by this Authority on 25.10.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets fig. 1-18 _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-25	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-25	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-25	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
Document 1: JP 11-111603 A (Dainippon Screen Mfg. Co., Ltd.), 23 April 1999			
Document 2: JP 2003-303752 A (Hitachi, Ltd.), 24 October 2003			
Claims 1 to 25			
<p>The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 25 do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 2 cited in the international search report.</p>			
<p>Document 1 (refer to paragraph [0025] and fig. 8) discloses a developing device for supplying a developer to a substrate in a helical pattern, wherein a developer discharging nozzle with a plurality of discharge apertures for discharging the developer, which are arranged in a row that has a length shorter than the radius of the substrate, is used to discharge the developer while rotating the substrate and moving said nozzle in a manner such that the array direction of the plurality of discharge apertures and the movement direction of said nozzle are parallel to one another.</p>			
<p>On the other hand, document 1 does not disclose the feature wherein the discharge openings of the developer nozzle discharge the developer in long, thin bands;</p>			

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Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
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however, slit nozzles are known to be nozzles for supplying a developer over a wide area in the lengthwise direction, as is apparent in the light of the slit nozzle disclosed in document 2. Such being the case, it would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of applying this well-known nozzle instead of a nozzle with a plurality of discharge apertures that are arranged in a row as the developer discharging nozzle in the developing device disclosed in document 1.